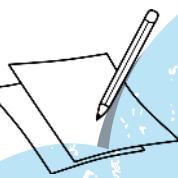




USA ROAD TRIP





ENGLISH

Students will focus on travel journals and descriptive writing. They will learn to write about different places using clear sentences and key vocabulary. We will also work on describing what they can see, hear and feel to make their writing more detailed. Our focus book is *The US Capital Commotion* by Jeff Brown.

HUMAN RIGHTS



PSHE

The students will focus on healthy relationships with peers and how to become more inclusive, this will also link to how our peers can influence our own views and being able to make our own positive choices. We will also be discussing our differences and what makes us a unique person.



COMPUTING

Students will learn how to work together online by creating, sharing and editing work as a team. They will use tools such as email to practise sending messages, giving feedback and managing shared files. The focus will be on building teamwork, communication and responsible online behaviour.



SCIENCE

In Science, students will explore ecosystems around the world. They will learn what makes an ecosystem, investigate different terrains and discover how animals are adapted to survive in their environments.



MATHS

In maths, the students will be focusing on journeys and distances. They will explore measurement of the journeys and costings around this. This will look at cash handling and adding and subtracting amounts of money.



SPRING 1

ANIMALS PATHWAY (KS2 & KS3)

USA Road Trip

This half term, our topic is **USA Road Trip**. We will be exploring this exciting theme across the curriculum to make learning as meaningful and engaging as possible.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Students will explore religious diversity in the USA, including Christianity, Judaism and Native American beliefs. They will learn how different cultures show thanks, such as through Thanksgiving, and look at key American symbols like the Statue of Liberty. Students will consider what these symbols mean and how they reflect American beliefs and culture.



HUMANITIES

Students will be looking at the United States of America, different states within America and important landmarks. We will look at the different states cultures, experiences and challenges.

ABOUT THE LOWER SCHOOL

In the Lower School, everything we do is carefully planned to prepare students for increasing independence and a successful transition into Key Stage 4, where the focus becomes Preparing for Adulthood. By the time they leave KS3, your child will have:

- Teaching tailored to each student's EHCP, with progress regularly reviewed and support adapted to ensure meaningful, personalised progress
- A growing awareness of their own strengths, interests and aspirations
- An understanding of how exams work in preparation for gaining qualifications
- The confidence to begin planning for their future, supported by staff who know them well
- Begin to work more independently, taking greater ownership of their learning and daily routines
- Developed self-care skills, such as personal hygiene, emotional regulation and understanding healthy choices
- An understanding of e-safety, including how to stay safe online, recognise risks and use technology responsibly
- Know how to keep themselves safe in the community, including what to do in an emergency and who to go to for help
- Developed the social, communication and life skills needed to move confidently into Key Stage 4
- Be able to show compassion and kindness towards others, demonstrating empathy and respectful behaviour
- An understanding of the importance of caring for the world we live in, including animals, the environment and making responsible choices
- The skills to socialise appropriately with peers and adults, including taking turns, understanding personal boundaries and showing respect
- The knowledge to keep themselves safe in the community, including road safety, stranger awareness and making safe choices

The Lower School is all about making progress, building confidence and independence and ensuring students have a clear sense of direction.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS

Class	05/01/26	12/01/26-09/02/26
Otters	Art & Small Animal Care	Cooking & Forest School
Lemurs	Forest School & Art	Small Animal Care & Outdoor Adventure
Red Pandas	Cooking & Performing Arts	Team Building & Small Animal Care
Tigers	Outdoor Adventure & Cooking	Forest School & Art
Capybaras	Small Animal Care & Forest School	Outdoor Adventure & Team Building
Butterflies	Performing Arts & Outdoor Adventure	Art & Cooking

THURSDAY AFTERNOONS

From next half term, there will be a new PE structure on Thursdays, while Monday sessions will remain unchanged. In response to parent and pupil feedback, we are introducing an A/B rota, where the pathway will be divided into two groups that will alternate having PE each week. This ensures students still access an average of two hours of physical activity weekly, in line with government recommendations. When students are not taking part in PE, they will engage in targeted activities designed to support progress towards their individual EHCP outcomes.

	Classes partaking in PE	Dates for PE lessons
Group A	Butterflies Red Pandas Tigers	15/01/26 29/01/26 12/02/26
Group B	Otters Lemurs Capybaras	08/01/26 22/01/26 05/02/26

USA ROAD TRIP

This half term, our topic is USA Road Trip. We will be exploring this exciting theme across the curriculum to make learning as meaningful and engaging as possible for our students. Research shows that children learn best when their experiences connect to their interests, so we have designed lessons that build links between subjects and allow plenty of opportunities for revisiting key concepts. This repetition helps to ensure that learning is consolidated and that students develop a deep understanding – enabling them to describe, explain, and apply what they have learned. There will also be a number of trips and special events taking place; you can find all relevant dates on the final page of the curriculum overview. We look forward to sharing exciting moments with you and your child and weekly newsletters will continue to provide you with information from the week that has passed.

English

This term in English, students will be exploring travel journals and descriptive writing. They will learn to write about places they visit—real or imagined—using clear sentences, time words and rich vocabulary. They will also focus on describing what they can see, hear and feel, helping them create detailed and engaging pieces of writing. Throughout the unit, pupils will be supported through shared writing, teacher modelling, visuals, word banks and structured writing frames so they can confidently develop and share their own travel adventures.

Maths

In Maths, students will be focusing on journeys and distances and mathematic problems around these topics. This will include the measurement of journeys and distances between points and bus and train routes. Students will also look at word problems relating to the costings of these journeys.

We will explore time problems through looking at timetables of bus and train journeys, the arrival times and time needed to travel, helping with preparation for independent travel in the future.

PSHE

We will learn about positive, healthy friendships and how to build inclusive relationships that value everyone. We'll explore how to manage peer influence and respond safely to hurtful behaviours. We will also discuss attraction to others as part of growing up, and celebrate the similarities, differences, and diversity that make each person unique.

Science

This half term in science, students will be learning about America's weather and climate. The focus will be on exploring the different types of weather experienced in various parts of the United States and understanding how these patterns affect the land, people, and daily life. Students will investigate how location, geography, and climate influence weather conditions across the country. They will learn that America is a large and diverse place, with regions that experience very different climates, such as hot deserts, snowy mountain areas, humid coastal regions, and areas prone to storms.

Geography

In Geography, we will locate the USA on a world map and identify some of its key states and major cities. We will study famous American landmarks and compare different regions to understand how they vary. We will also explore the concept of climate zones and how they affect the environment and way of life across the country.

History

We will explore the lives of Cowboys, Native Americans and Pioneers in the American West. We will learn about their cultures, daily experiences and the challenges they faced, as well as how their interactions shaped this period of history. Through comparing their different ways of life, we'll develop a deeper understanding of this important era and its lasting impact.

Physical Education

In PE, Otters and Capybaras are taking part in swimming lessons at Dunstable leisure centre. These lessons are run by qualified swimming instructors. Tigers and Lemurs will be taking part in invasion games. These will include sports such as; football, hockey, netball and basketball. Pupils will be honing their principles of defence and attack during these sessions.

Religious Education

In RE this half term, we will explore religious diversity in the USA such as Christianity, Judaism and Native American beliefs. We will compare how different cultures show thanks and study symbols of American beliefs (e.g. Statue of Liberty as a symbol of freedom). We will explore the significance that symbols have on religion and culture in America.

Forest School

This term, we will be focusing on developing survival skills during our lessons. Students will build on previously learned techniques as they design and build shelters, cook selection of food on the fire and learn about knots and rope safety. We will also be going out of school to let students play and explore the local woods.

Computing

Our Computing topic this half term is 'Collaboration'. We will explore how to create, share and edit work as a team using email and cloud-based applications like Google Slides. Students will develop teamwork, communication, and responsibility online, and will practise sending emails, giving feedback and managing shared files online.

Small Animal Care

This half term, students will be learning about grooming animals and trimming their nails as part of their small animal care topic. They will explore the different types of equipment used

for grooming, including brushes and nail clippers, and learn why each tool is important.

Students will practise how to brush animals safely and gently, as well as learn the correct and safe way to trim an animal's nails. This will help them understand how grooming supports an animal's health, comfort, and wellbeing.

Art:

Pupils will be learning the basic processes of artefact making through clay. They will be making functional as well as decorative items in clay. They will be learning how to create texture, join pieces of clay together, make a simple functional object like a candle holder, and how to cast clay in a mould. Pupils will learn the firing process and glazing. Three artefacts will be created, a pinch pot, coil pot, and a candle holder. Pupils will also learn about the pottery and ceramics of ancient Crete.

Cooking

In Cooking, students will continue to build and develop a wide range of practical skills. We will focus on kitchen safety, food hygiene and the correct storage of food. Students will learn how to follow recipes carefully, including how to cut ingredients safely using good hand-eye coordination. We will also emphasise the importance of being organised and prepared when working in the kitchen.

Homework Themes

- Famous landmark project
- Landmark Models
- Weather & time zone investigations
- US state fact file
- American food study

Music

In Music this half term we will be focusing different genres of American music including Jazz, Country, Rock n Roll, Hip Hop and the Blues and their cultural origins. We will explore their rhythms, tempos and the instruments they use. the students will be given the opportunity compose their own music relating to these genres.

Team Building

Students will develop their collaborative skills by working together to solve problems and make compromises in order to achieve success. They will communicate and justify their ideas with another, demonstrating reasoning skills, perseverance when faced with challenges and difficult situations.

Outdoor Adventure

In Spring 1, students will be developing key teamwork and communication skills through a range of outdoor and practical activities. They will work together to solve simple challenges, take on different team roles and use a variety of communication methods. Activities such as team relays, building a mini wildlife hotel, preparing an outdoor picnic and taking part in boat building and races will help students build confidence, strengthen their problem-solving and develop a sense of belonging and shared purpose.

Wider Reading- Tamara

- The Buddy Files: The Case of the Lost Boy
- Flat Stanley's Worldwide Adventures: The Great American Road Trip
- The Boxcar Children: The Niagara Falls Mystery
- National Geographic Kids: United States Atlas
- The United States Book - Rebecca Siegel

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Class Photos	Thursday 15 th January
Safer Internet Week	Monday 9 th February-Friday 13 th February
Half Term	Monday 16th February-Friday 20 th February